

SPIRIT LAKE, COLDWATER, OR SOUTH CASTLE LAKE DEBRIS STRUCTURE

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

There are two aspects of communications flow relating to a failure of any of the subject structures regardless of the cause; 1) alarm via telemetry, and 2) alert and warning. The National Weather Service (NWS) receives initial alarms via telemetry from select gauges and initiates response action. Three flag words or terms will be used to define an event and subsequent response action. They are:

1. **UNUSUAL EVENT:** The NWS has experienced the loss of or an indication of a degraded monitoring system to the point of no confidence in the data being received. NWS notifies on NAWAS only (not for public release).
2. **CODE YELLOW:** NWS has initial alarm with verification requested from sources able to do so and return to the NWS. A failure may be happening. Be on the alert - NWS notifies on NAWAS only (not for public release).
3. **FLASH FLOOD WARNING:** An event is taking place. Take established precautionary measures.

B. PROCEDURES

The National Weather Service will issue warning information under one of the three flag words or terms as follows:

1. **UNUSUAL EVENT:** NWS will call on NAWAS and advise all concerned of the monitoring system deficiency. Visual observations are critical and should be relayed to the NWS by the most expeditious means.
2. **CODE YELLOW:** NWS will initiate on NAWAS if alarms indicate an event may be beginning and verification from other sources is desired. This alerts other people to get ready, in case.
3. **FLASH FLOOD WARNING:** Initiate on NAWAS according to established criteria. (See Tab 5, Attachment 3)

C. NAWAS Operating Steps (FOR NWS)

1. To issue a bulletin on NAWAS, the NWS will:
 - a. Ring stations for nine (9) seconds.
 - b. Say: "THIS IS THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, THIS RING IS FOR WASHINGTON WARNING POINTS: KELSO, VOLCANO CENTER, VANCOUVER, SKAMANIA S.O., AND OLYMPIA WEATHER. ALL OTHER STATIONS MAY MONITOR. WE HAVE AN (UNUSUAL EVENT or CODE YELLOW SITUATION) FROM (SAY WHICH STRUCTURE) AS OF _____ PDT/PST." End with, "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS STANDING BY."
 - c. Ensure the Washington State Warning Point acknowledges and conducts a roll call of the affected stations for their acknowledgement. Ensure all stations polled, copied the message and answered.
 - d. Each station called should acknowledge and initiate local procedures either to try to verify or dispute a code yellow. Responses of visual or known conditions should be relayed back to the NWS via NAWAS.

D. State Warning Point

1. Acknowledge NAWAS warning message from NWS.
2. Ensure roll call of identified local Primary Warning Points is complete.
3. If the message is an "UNUSUAL EVENT" or a "CODE YELLOW", stop here, but monitor NAWAS for further information from NWS and Cowlitz County or stations reporting observations back to NWS.
4. If "FLASH FLOOD WARNING", see Tab 5, Attachment 3.

E. Cancellation or Termination

1. NWS, Seattle, will downgrade or terminate alerts according to normal flood warning procedures. (See Tab 5, attachment 3).
2. A **code yellow** will be terminated or cancelled jointly by state EM Duty Officer and NWS. An **unusual event** will be terminated by the NWS.